

DEC 22 2004

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Attorney Docket No. 04027/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

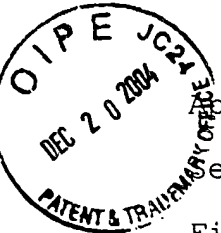
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N. Sahadeo  
Nalini P. Sahadeo

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Applicant(s): S. NOMURA et al  
Serial No. : 10/762,824  
Filed : January 21, 2004  
For : IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,  
APPARATUS THEREFOR AND PROGRAM  
FOR CONTROLLING OPERATIONS  
OF IMAGE PROCESSING  
Art Unit : 2673  
Examiner :

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)  
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated December 3,  
2004, issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of non-U.S. patent cited publications; and
- (3) Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B.

The European Search Report is in English, thereby satisfying  
the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any  
non-English language publications cited therein  
(MPEP 609 III A(3)).

USP 5,287,418 and US 2002/0196973 are family members of  
EP 0 424 920 and EP 1 248 455 respectively. See the Annex to the  
EPSR.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)**

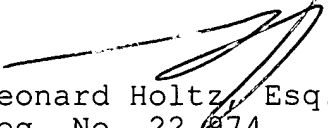
Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of December 3, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is requested that initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Leonard Holtz, Esq.  
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: December 20, 2004

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PTO/SB/C8A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>	Application Number		10/762,824	
	Filing Date		January 21, 2004	
	First Named Inventor		S. NOMURA	
	Group Art Unit		2673	
	Examiner Name			
Sheet 1	of 2	Attorney Docket Number		04027/LH

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No	Document Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
		5,287,418	A	KISHIDA	02-15-1994	
		6,226,011	B1	SAKUYAMA et al	05-01-2001	
		2002/0196973	A1	SCHRODER et al	12-26-2002	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No	Offc.	Document Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T <sup>6</sup>
		JP	0 424 920	A2	DAINIPPON SCREEN MFG. CO., LTD.	05-02-1991		
		JP	1 248 455	A1	IMIP LLC	10-09-2002		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Unique citation designation number. See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIFO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIFO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Place a check here if English translation is attached.

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				Application Number		10/762,824	
				Filing Date		January 21, 2004	
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				Examiner Name			
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number		04027/LH	
<b>OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b>							
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article, title of item, date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published					T <sup>2</sup>
		SMEULDERS, A.W.M. et al., "Content-Based Image Retrieval at the End of the Early Years" IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, Vol. 22, No. 12, Pages 1349-1380, XP001050971, ISSN: 0162-8828, December 2000.					
Examiner Signature					Date Considered		

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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